

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of

PRATESI, S. et al. Atty. Ref.: 3816-62; Confirmation No.

Appl. No. To be assigned Group:

US National Phase of PCT/EP02/14893

Filed: June 28, 2004 Examiner:

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June 28, 2004

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

In order to place the above-identified application in better condition for examination, please amend the application as follows: